Recommendations of Alagh Committee

570. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have since considered the recommendations of the Alagh Committee, set up by Government to examine the methodological issues relating to fixing of Minimum Support Prices of agricultural produce; and

(b) the details of the recommendations accepted/rejected by Government, indicating the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) The recommendations are under consideration.

Closure of Marine Aquarium and Research Centre, Vizhinjam

571. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal is pending to close down the Marine Aquarium and Research Centre functioning at Vizhinjam in Kerala and if so, the reasons for its closure;

(b) whether Government had proposed to transfer these centres to other neighbouring States from that State; and

(c) whether Government would consider to put off the decision to wind up this institution, and the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) Yes, Sir. The Expenditure Finance Committee while considering the X Five Year Plan proposal of the Institute, in its meeting held on 20.06.2003 at ICAR Headquarters, New Delhi, decided to shift / merge the Vizhinjam Research Centre of CMFRI to Mandapam Regional Centre of CMFRI with a view to consolidate the ongoing programmes more effectively, since Mandapam Regional Centre is proposed to be developed as a major Mariculture and Marine biodiversity Centre. The other reasons for such decision of shifting /merger of the Centre are present research relevance, proper utilization of scientists and associated manpower, avoidance of duplication of research efforts and strengthening of identified centers for strategic and applied research.

(b) and (c) The proposal is to hand over Marine Aquarium facilities to the State Government of Kerala and the research programmes at Vizhinjam Centre of CMFRI in Kerala to be shifted to the Regional Centre of CMFRI, Mandapam, Tamil Nadu. However, most staff members of C&D category would be transferred to the Headquarters of the CMFRI, Kochi within the State of Kerala. The decision has been taken in view of the approval of the X Plan Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC) meeting held on 20.06.2003 for consolidation of research efforts.

Implementation of Agriculture Coordination Committee's recommendations in Uttaranchal

572. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have implemented the recommendations of the Agriculture Coordination Committee in Uttaranchal to focus on agricultural development and policy in that State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the time limit set by Government to implement the recommendations of the committee in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Adoption of Agricultural produce marketing act by States

573. SHRI V. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Agricultural Produce Marketing Act, 2003 has been adopted by the States;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the State that have fully accepted it;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether proposal of contract farming is also a part of the above Act; and